

Amendment to the Drawings:

The attached drawings sheets include changes to FIGS. 10A -10B and FIGS 11A-11C.

Specifically, omitted element 10 has been added, as described in the specification.

Attachments

New FIGS. 10A-10B and 11A-11C.

Annotated FIGS. 10A-10B and 11A-11C.

**REMARKS**

Following the present Amendment, claims 1-40 remain in the application. It is believed that the Amendment address all grounds for Objections and/or Rejections and that the current application is in condition for review and allowance.

**Objection to the Drawings**

Applicants propose to amend Figures 10A-10B and 11A-11C to add omitted element 10 (the distributor/connector) and to correct the locations of elements 1 (air ducts), 2 (carding machine), and 12 (down shoot to the Carding Machine 2). In particular, the figures have been amended according to the specification at pages 4 and 5 that describes the carding machines 2 as being connected in a substantially linear series to receive a singular air flow along the air ducts 1. the connector 10 connects the air ducts 1 to the down shoot 12 of carding machine 2.

In response to the second objection to the Drawings regarding line x-x in FIG. 7, the Applicants have amended the specification to correctly note that axis X-X appears in FIGS. 11A-11C as the path of air flow through the air ducts 1

**Objection to the Specification**

The specification is herein amended to correct minor errors and stylistic differences. It is believed that no new matter has been added through this amendment.

**Objection to the Claims**

The Action objected to the claims as containing multiple dependent claims, and these have been removed in this amendment. Furthermore, the Applicants have further amended the claims to amend stylistic errors.

**Rejection of the Claims under 35 USC §112**

The Action rejected the claims 1-40 under 35 USC §112 for failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicants respectfully disagree and strongly urge that the disclosure

allows someone of ordinary skill in the art to practice the invention as claimed and disclosed. Specifically, as disclosed in the specification, as depicted in FIG. 9, the deflection means (22) comprise a step (28) projecting from the upper wall (26) of the connector towards the through opening (20) of the side duct (18). The step (28) has a forward surface (30) which is **struck** during normal operation of the processing line by the stream of fibre, a lower surface (32) of longitudinal extension, and (opposite the forward surface (30)) a rear surface (34).

As further described in the specification, the fibre is collects along the entire lower surface 32 after the air flow is slowed by forward surface (30). The surface is positioned opposite the opening 20 in the side branch 18, and closely sized to allow the collected fibre from the lower surface 32 to deposit throughout the opening 20. In this way, the fibre is collected on the the lower surface 32 throughout the opening 20 to allow a substantially collection. The particular fluid dynamic rational for the collection of the in-stream fibre particles along the lower surface 32 is quite complex and generally beyond the scope of the present discussion. Moreover, this understanding is not necessary for enable of this relatively simple mechanical device, which can be implemented according to the disclosure by one of ordinary skill in the particular technical art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this grounds for rejection has been traversed.

The Applicants have further amend the claims to remove the “essentially and approximately” language.

#### Rejection of the Claims under 35 USC §103

The Action rejected claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 14-19, 21, 242-6, 29, 34-35, and 40 under 35 USC §103 in view of Hijiya. As an initial observation, Applicants note with great appreciation the Action’s note that claim 20 would be allowed if written in independent form and to overcome the other grounds of objection. Accordingly, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 19 to incorporate virtually every limitation of claim 20. Accordingly, it is believed that this ground for rejection is overcome since Hijiya does not teach or suggest each and every element of amended claims 1 and 19:

1. Connector (10) for a duct (1) for the pneumatic feeding of fibre to a carding machine (2),

the said connector extending along a longitudinal axis (Y-Y) and having an upstream portion (14), from where the said fibre arrives, and a side duct (18) having a through opening (20) for fibre feeding to the carding machine (2), and

also comprising means (22) for deflecting the stream of fibre, the said means being struck, in a condition of normal operation, by the said stream of fibre and being able to deflect the same stream of fibre from the upstream portion (14) of the connector (10) towards the side duct (18) of the latter,

in which said means (22) for deflecting the stream of fibre have a longitudinal length as projected onto a plane passing through the longitudinal axis (Y-Y) of the connector, so as to channel the said fibre in an uniform manner towards the carding machine (2),

and in which said side duct (18) has a centre plane (M-M) perpendicular to the longitudinal axis (Y-Y) of the connector (10),

and in which the connector (10) comprises walls (24) that form a box-like structure having an upper wall (26) on the opposite side of the longitudinal axis (Y-Y) of the connector from the through opening (20),

and in which said means (22) for deflecting the stream of fibre are connected to the upper wall (26) of the connector (10),

and in which the deflection means (22) comprise a step (28) projecting from the upper wall (26) of the connector towards the through opening (20) of the side duct (18),

and in which said step (28) has a forward surface (30) which is struck, during normal operation of the processing line, by the stream of fibre, a lower surface (32) of longitudinal extension and, opposite the forward surface (30), a rear surface (34).

Applicants further urge allowance of claims 2-18 and 20-23 as depending from allowable claims 1 and 19.

Regarding claim 24, Applicants have carefully review Hijiya and respectfully suggest that Hiljaya neither teaches or suggests the present invention as claimed therein. Specifically, Applicants note that length of element 7 is much smaller than the size of the opening D. Moreover, element 7 is displaced from opening D, such that element 7 only partially appears above opening D. Specifically, it can be seen in FIG 2 of Hijiya that fibers collected along the bottom portion of element 7 would fall into only small portion of the opening D. In contrast, the present invention, as embodied in Claim 24 has a deflection means 24 with a bottom surface 28 that is substantially equal in length to opening 20. Moreover, claims 24 as been amended to

include the limitation of allowable claim 26. Claims 25-40 should likewise be allowable as depending from claims.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the above-noted amendments before the application is examined upon the merits, and that the above remarks be fully considered in conjunction therewith. Timely allowance of all currently pending claims and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance are requested.

The Applicant has filed this Response and Amendment without increasing the number of claims above the number previously submitted or paid for. Accordingly, any no additional claims fees are believed to be due at the present time. If such fees or any other fees associated with the filing of this paper are due at this time, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1349. Also, please credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1349.

The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative via telephone if such would expedite prosecution of this application toward allowance.

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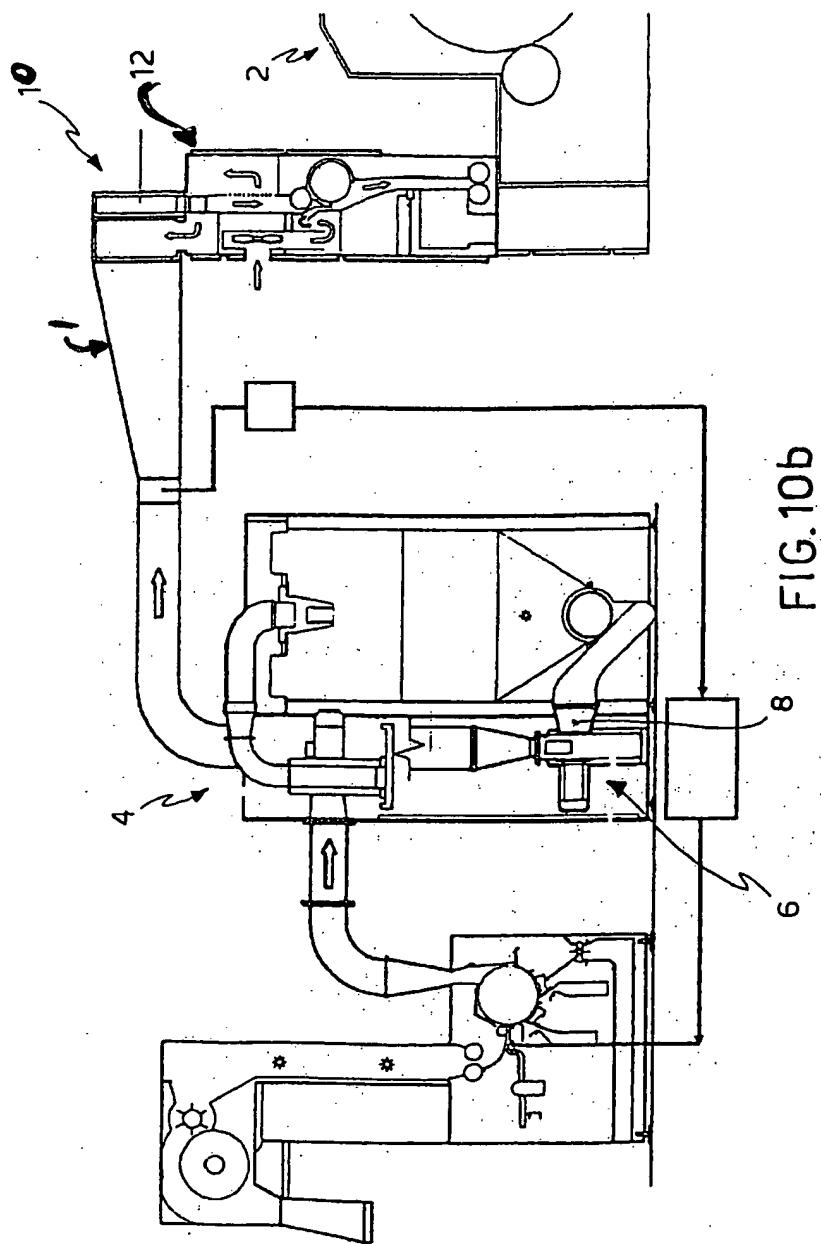
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U.S. Patent Application No. 10/777,782  
Annotated Sheet



U.S. Patent Application No. 10/777,782  
Annotated Sheet

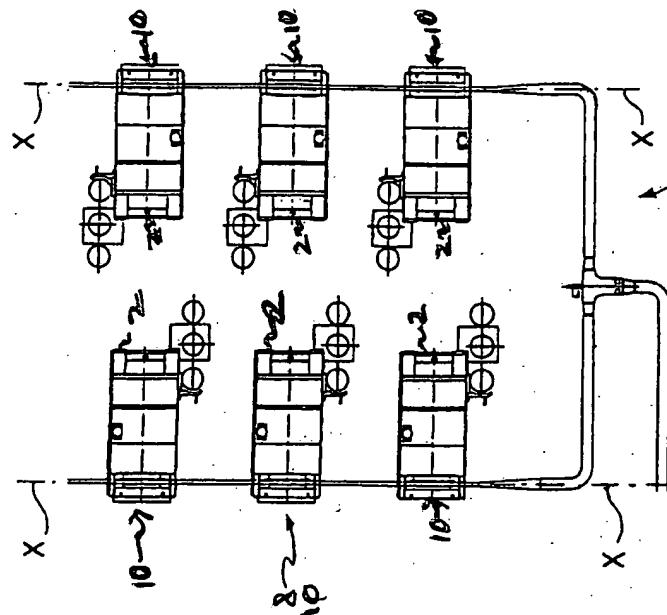


FIG. 11c

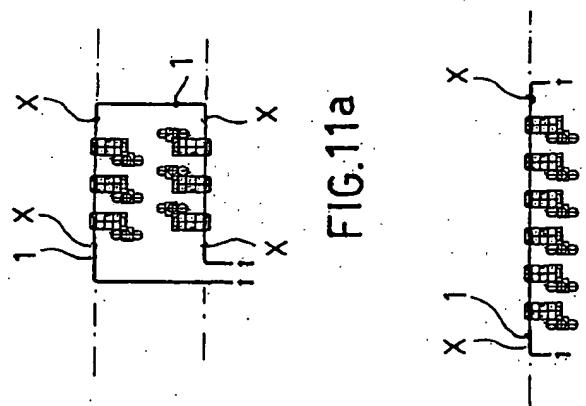


FIG. 11a

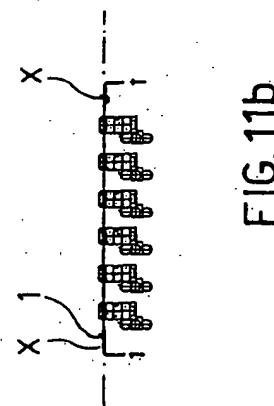


FIG. 11b